(b) if so, the aims and objects of the scheme and the details thereof; and

(c) the time-frame set for launching the scheme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) National Housing Bank (NHB) has conceptualized a savings linked housing loan scheme titled 'NHB—Bachat Awas Yojana' (NHB—BAY).

The Scheme is aimed at lower level employees of big organizations in Government, Public and Private Sector: such as lower ranks of Para-military and armed forces, other Government/Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) employees, industrial workers, nurses, other salaried class, etc. The objective of the scheme is to encourage savings among the lower income segments, which could be dovetailed to housing.

As the Scheme is at concept stage, no time frame has been set for launching of scheme.

Low cost housing

488. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is a shortage of 19.4 million housing units in the country out of which 6.7 million units are required in urban areas;

(b) if so, how many units have been added during the last three years;

(c) the steps Government is taking to boost low cost housing in the country;

(d) the money that has been earmarked in this regard and money that has been spent in this regard, State-wise; and

(e) the role of the States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) According to the estimates made by the Technical Group constituted by the Ministry for assessment of the urban housing shortage at the end of the 10th Five Year Plan, the total housing shortage in the country is 24.71 million.

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), launched by the Government in the year 2005 caters to provision of housing and basic services to urban poor in 63 specified cities under the Sub Mission Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and in other cities and towns under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Corporation (IHSDP). A total of 1210039 dwelling units, covering 846796 dwelling units under BSUP and 363243 dwelling units under IHSDP have been approved for construction covering 651 cities/towns/Urban Local Bodies.

(c) and (d) The National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, 2007 aims to promote development of cost effective, quality approved building materials and technologies with a view to bringing down the cost of houses. The policy seeks that the Central and State/UT

Governments should promote low cost, local building materials based on agricultural and industrial wastes, particularly those based on fly ash, red mud and allied local materials.

Towards this end, the policy seeks to promote Research and Development (R and D) relating to alternate building materials and technologies as well as energy conservation practices in the housing sector; standardization and quality marking of building materials; and transfer of proven, cost-effective building materials and technologies from lab to land. Demonstration houses using cost effective materials and alternate technologies will be constructed by the Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) set - up by the Central Government and by other appropriate public/Private Sector agencies.

In addition, a provision has been made in the Eleventh Plan for Rs.5 crores for strengthening the National Network of Nirman Kendras/Nirmithi Kendras (Building Centres). Housing technology and know - how transfer at grass - root level. The Scheme seeks to facilitate transfer of advances in technology for cost effective and expeditious construction activities at the ground level and promotion of R and D for alternate building material technologies and energy conservation in housing sector.

(e) The National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, 2007 seeks that State/UT Governments should promote low cost, local building materials based on agricultural and industrial wastes, particularly those based on fly ash, red mud and allied local materials. Further, States/UTs are expected to include new building materials in their schedule of rates.

Housing and urban poverty alleviation

489. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken during the last three years to meet the problems of housing and urban poverty alleviation;

(b) the results thereof;

(c) the details of shortfall;

(d) the plans for the future; and

(e) the strategy for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) In order to mitigate the problems of housing in the urban areas to ameliorate the living conditions of the urban poor, several initiatives have been taken during the last three years.

The National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy (NUHHP), 2007 laid in the parliament on 07.12.2007, intends to promote sustainable development habitat in the country with a view to ensuring equitable supply of land, shelter and services at affordable prices to all sections of society. Given the magnitude of the housing shortage and budgetary constraints of both the Central and State Governments, the Policy focuses the spotlight on multiple stake-holders